

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 12-14, 16-19, and 21-23 are presently pending in this application. Independent claims 1, 16, and 22 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Various of the claims have been amended to assure grammatical and idiomatic English and improved form under United States practice. Claim 23 has been added to claim additional features of the invention.

An obvious omission in the specification has been corrected.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 1-7 and 10-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fan (U.S. Patent No. 5,926,168). Claims 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fan in view of Hashimoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,554,980). These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

In one aspect, the claimed invention is directed to a computer system having a display screen, a pointing device responsive to actuation of a position indicating button to emit a beam of light, a position detecting unit which detects a position at which the beam contacts the display screen, and a processing unit which controls display of a cursor on the display screen. In another aspect, the claimed invention is a method of operating a computer system which includes responding to actuation of a position indicating button by emitting a beam of light, detecting a position at which the beam contacts a display screen, and moving a cursor to the detected position. In a third aspect, the claimed invention is a method for indicating a position on a display screen which includes providing a pointing device including a position indicating button, actuating the position indicating button to indicate a position on the display screen, and moving a cursor to the indicated position.

In addition, in the claimed invention, actuation of the position indicating button results in outputting of a position indication allowing signal, and in response to concurrent actuation of the position indicating button and outputting of this position indication allowing signal the processing unit moves the cursor to the detected position. Thus, the cursor is not

moved unless actuation of the position indicating button and outputting of the position indication allowing signal occur concurrently.

The Examiner alleges that Fan teaches the invention of claims 1-7 and 10-22.

Applicant submits, however, that there are elements of the claimed invention which are neither taught nor suggested by Fan.

Fan discloses a pointing device that enables a user to remotely control the position of a cursor (10) on the display means (20) of a computer or interactive TV (30). The cursor (10) on the display means (20) appears at the position pointed by the remote pointing device. Fan's system comprises a microprocessor based machine (30), display means (20), a cursor (10), pointing means (40), means for determining the position on the display means (20) pointed by the pointing means (40), and means for inputting into the microprocessor based machine (30) the position on the display means (20) pointed by the pointing means (40) as the position of the cursor (10).

In contrast to Fan, the claimed invention utilizes a position indication allowing signal which enables the processing unit to move the cursor. Thus, the cursor is not able to be moved simply due to actuation of the position indicating button causing emitting of a beam of light. As set forth on page 12 of the specification, the controller 10, in response to the position detection allowing signal B, determines the position 8 indicated by the beam 3a on the display on the basis of the beam deflection signal C. The controller 10 outputs the position indicating signal D representative of the position 8. This conserves time on the controller, freeing the controller for other functions. In addition, it assures that should stray light of the same frequency as the beam emitted by the pointing device impinge on the display screen, the cursor is not incorrectly moved.

Each of the independent claims 1, 16, and 22 includes this feature. Neither Fan nor Hashimoto shows or suggests such a system or method. It is accordingly submitted that the independent claims, and consequently also their dependent claims, distinguish patentably from the references and are allowable.

Thus, Applicant submits that there are elements of the claimed invention that are not taught or suggested by Fan, as discussed below. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

The Examiner alleges that Hashimoto when combined with Fan, makes obvious the invention of claims 8 and 9. Applicant submits, however, that there are elements of the claimed invention which are neither taught nor suggested by Hashimoto, whether combined with Fan or considered alone.

Hashimoto discloses a remote control system including a remote control unit and a controlled unit. The remote control unit is moved in space, and includes a movement detector, a selection switch and a transmitter. The movement detector detects movement of the remote control unit. The transmitter transmits an output of the movement detector and the selection switch. The controlled unit includes a display device, a receiver, and a controller. The display device includes a display screen and displays a cursor and icons on the display screen. The receiver receives the output of the movement detector and the selection switch from the transmitter. The controller moves the cursor across the display screen in accordance with the output of the movement detector and the selection switch.

Applicant submits that there are elements of the claimed invention that are not taught or suggested by Hashimoto, whether combined with Fan or considered alone. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-14, 16-19, and 21-23, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

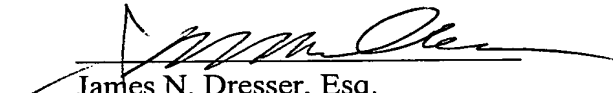
Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully Submitted,

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James N. Dresser, Esq.
Registration No. 22,973

McGinn & Gibb, PLLC
8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200
Vienna, VA 22182-3817
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254